

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 03161 311253Z
ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6799

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 3161

FOR WACASC DIRECTOR WALLACE

ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM AND AF/EX DIRECTOR KRYZA
FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCLR, ASUP, AFSP, MR
SUBJECT: RE-SCHEDULING OF OFF-AGAIN-ON-AGAIN WACASC SUPPORT FLIGHT

REF: (A) LAGOS 14469, (B) NOUAKCHOTT 3138

1. AS ONE OF RECEIVING POSTS WHICH HAS REPEATEDLY BEEN RE-
QUIRED SINCE EARLY NOVEMBER TO MAKE AND THEN UN-MAKE LONG
INVENTORY OF DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN EVER LENGTHENING
SERIES OF PROMISED AND THEN CANCELLED WACASC SUPPORT FLIGHTS,
WE ARE AT LEAST AS AWARE AS YOU OF UNRELIABILITY OF WACASC
AIR CHARTER CONTRACTOR PAN AFRICAN AIRWAYS. WE CAN AND DO
APPRECIATE THE VERY GREAT DIFFICULTIES AN UNRELIABLE AIR
CHARTER CONTRACTOR WITH A CONTINUOUSLY SICK AIRPLANE CREATES
FOR YOUR OPERATION AND IN PARTICULAR FOR YOUR YEOMAN
SCHEDULING EFFORTS. WE ARE SURE THAT YOU CAN AND WILL APPRE-
CIATE THAT THIS MISSION, LIKE ALL THE OTHER SMALL US OUTPOSTS
IN WEST AFRICA WHICH ARE SUPPORTED BY YOUR SERVICE ORGANIZATION,
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PAGE 02 NOUAKC 03161 311253Z

HAS AN EXPANDING PROGRAM TO RUN WITH FIXED AND LIMITED
HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES, AND CANNOT AFFORD TO DISSEMINATE
ITS ASSETS IN WHEEL SPINNING EXERCISES. USING UP OUR CREDIT
OF GOOD WILL AT MINTRANSPORTATION, AT CUSTOMS, AND AT NKT
AIRPORT IN ADDITION TO TYING UP OUR ENTIRE ADMIN SUPPORT
STAFF-AMERICAN AND LOCAL-AND OUR SCARCE EQUIPMENT ASSETS

WAITING FOR PAN AFRICAN AIRWAYS PLANES WHICH NEVER ARRIVE, CREATES AS MUCH HAVOC IN OUR ATTEMPTS TO MANAGE OUR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN AN ORDERLY FASHION AS CLOGGED PORTS, SICK AIRPLANES, AND UNCOMPREHENDING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES DO IN YOURS. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT SOLUTION TO PROBLEM WE BOTH FACE IS TO LOCATE AND HIRE RELIABLE AIR CHARTER CONTRACTOR WHO HAS THE PEOPLE, CAPITAL, AND AIRCRAFT TO DO JOB HE IS HIRED TO DO, AND THEN TO KEEP HIS FEET TO A VERY HOT FIRE BY A SYSTEM OF PYRAMIDING PENALTIES FOR LATE, NON-, OR SUBSTANDARD PERFORMANCE. NOT TO VENT OUR RESPECTIVE PENT UP ORGANIZATIONAL FRUSTRATIONS IN TELEGRAPHIC GROUNDING AT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AF FAMILY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR SCHEDULE PROPOSAL (LAGOS 14342), WE EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR LATTER PART OF WEEK OF JANUARY 4 RATHER THAN EARLIER PART OF THAT PROPOSED WEEK, SPECIFICALLY FOR JANUARY 6 OR LATER. WE EXPLAINED THAT THIS MISSION'S ONLY GSO AND ITS ONLY TRUCK WERE SCHEDULED TO MAKE A SUPPORT RUN TO DAKAR TO PICK UP URGENTLY NEEDED EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES WHICH HAVE FINALLY BEEN LANDED THERE BY WANDERING US FLAG VESSELS. ALTHOUGH POSTPONEMENT OF THIS SCHEDULED TRIP WILL COST US A MINIMUM OF THREE ADDITIONAL MAN DAYS TO CHASE DOWN REQUIRED REVISIONS OF SENEGALESE AND MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTATION INVOLVED (PLUS ADDITIONAL INDIRECT LOST MANHOURS), I AM FULLY PREPARED TO RESCHEDULE THIS RUN AND HAVE GSO, TRUCK, AND STAFF AT AIRPORT ON JANUARY 4 TO MEET WACASC, AND I WILL DO SO PROVIDED YOU CAN GUARANTEE THAT PAN AFRICAN AIRWAYS WILL IN FACT ARRIVE IN NOUAKCHOTT ON JANUARY 4.

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PAGE 03 NOUAKC 03161 311253Z

3. IF YOU CANNOT GIVE ME THAT GUARANTEE (AND IN VIEW OF PAN AFRICAN AIRWAYS' TRACK RECORD OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS, I CAN EASILY UNDERSTAND WHY YOU CANNOT), THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SUGGEST A POSTPONEMENT OF THE WACASC SUPPORT FLIGHT UNTIL LATER IN JANUARY, THE TWENTY-FIFTY IF THAT IS THE BEST FOR WACASC. WE HAVE ALREADY LOST ONE SCHEDULED RUN TO DAKAR; WE CANCELLED TRIP IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE WACASC SUPPORT FLIGHT SCHEDULE ONLY TO WAIT FUTILESSLY AT AIRPORT FOR PAN AFRICAN AIRWAYS' PLANE WHICH NEVER SHOWED. FROM POINT OF VIEW OF OUR CURRENT SUPPLY NEEDS, HAVING LOST THE WACASC PRE-HOLIDAY SUPPORT FLIGHT (PRE-THANKSGIVING AND PRE-CHRISTMAS AND PRE-NEW YEARS), TIME-CRITICAL SUPPLY PROBLEM WE MUST NOW MEET IS TRANSPORT TO NOUAKCHOTT OF URGENTLY NEEDED PROGRAM AND SUPPORT MATERIALS CURRENTLY ON DAKAR DOCKS. GIVEN OUR PRESENT SUPPLY POSITION, WE SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD TO FIND OURSELVES ON JANUARY 10 WITH NEITHER THE WACASC NOR THE DAKAR SHIPMENTS.

4. I ANXIOUSLY AWAIT YOUR REPLY. MEANWHILE --HERE'S TO A
HAPPY NEW 1977 FREE OF SICK AIRPLANES, UNRELIABLE AIR CHARTER
CONTRACTORS, PORT CONGESTION, DIFFICULT CUSTOMS OFFICIALS,
AND MAVERICK FOREIGN SERVICE MISSIONS.

HANDYSIDE

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